

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 01752 141410Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1752

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PDIP, US, AG, CU, SF, SHUM
SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS - AMBASSADOR HAYNES

1. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF CREDENTIALS
TO PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE ON JULY 13 HE INVITED ME TO
ADJOINING SALON FOR TWENTY-MINUTE PRIVATE EXCHANGE OF
VIEWS. THER WERE NO INTERPRETERS PRESENT AND WE SPOKE
IN FRENCH. WHILE FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA AND SECRETARY GENERAL
OF PRESIDENCY ALLAHOUM WERE ONLY OTHERS PRESENT FOR
EXCHANGE, NEITHER PARTICIAPTED IN DISCUSSION.

2. IN COURSE OF OUR EXCHANGE, PRESIDENT MADE FOLLOWING
POINTS:

A. VISIT TO US: HE OPENED BY ASKING ME TO TRANSMIT
TO PRESIDENT CARTER HIS INTENTION TO ACCEPT INVITATION
TO VISIT US. AS I DID WITH HIS FONMIN YESTERDAY, I AGAIN
PROMISED TO OBTAIN SOME FIRM DATES FOR SUCH A VISIT
FOR HIS CONSIDERATION.

B. CARTER VISIT TO ALGERIA: PRESIDENT ASKED ME TO
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PASS ON TO PRESIDENT CARTER HIS PERSONAL INVITATION TO
VISIT ALGERIA AT PRESIDENT CARTER'S EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.
HE SAID HE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT AMERICAN PRESIDENT
VISIT A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY IN NEAR FUTURE AS DEMONSTRATION
OF INTEREST IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. I POINTED OUT
PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO KEEP HIS OVERSEAS

TRAVEL TO A MINIMUM DURING THIS IMPORTANT FIRST YEAR OF HIS ADMINISTRATION. HOWEVER, I PROMISED TO PASS ON ALGERIAN PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

C. US RELATIONS WITH CUBA: PRESIDENT ASKED ME HOW US RELATIONS WITH CUBA ARE PROGRESSING. I TOLD HIM THAT US WAS MOVING STEADILY TOWARD RESUMPTION OF NORMAL DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA. THEREUPON, HE OFFERED ME A LONG CUBAN CIGAR WHICH I REFUSED WITH THANKS. WITH A WRY SMILE ON HIS FACE, HE ASKED WHETHER HE SHOULD ATTACH ANY POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO MY REFUSAL OF HIS OFFER OF A CUBAN CIGAR.

D. US FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL: PRESIDENT EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH MANY OF FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS TAKEN BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION, CITING IN PARTICULAR:

(1) RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA

(2) EFFORTS TO SOLVE SOUTHERN AFRICA
COMPLEX OF PROBLEMS

(3) CONTINUED EFFORTS TO SEEK PEACE IN
MIDDLE EAST

(4) INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS INTO
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OUT FOREIGN POLICY.

E. SOUTH AFRICA: PRESIDENT WANTED US TO KNOW THAT ALGERIA FEELS A CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH PLIGHT OF NON-WHITE MAJORITY IN SOUTH AFRICA AS ALGERIA'S RECENT HISTORY WAS ONE IN WHICH A MINORITY OF PRIVILEGED FRENCHMEN SUCCESSFULLY DOMINATED AND EXPLOITED AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF INDIGENOUS ALGERIANS. HE ASKED ME TO ADVISE MY GOVERNMENT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FOLLOWING MATTER CLOSELY.

F. HUMAN RIGHTS: PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT APPLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN US FOREIGN POLICY WOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO A FEW SOVIET INTELLECTUALS OR SOVIET JEWS OR TO LONG-SUFFERING BLACKS OF SOWETO AND NAMIBIA. TO BE CREDIBLE, HE SAID, THAT CONCERN MUST ALSO BE APPLIED TO WESTERN SAHARA SITUATION AND RIGHT OF SAHRAOUI TO SELF-DETERMINATION. I ASSURED HIM THAT IT WAS INTENTION OF USG TO HOLD ALL FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS UP TO SCRUTINY FOR THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS. I FURTHER POINTED OUT MY PERSONAL PREOCCUPATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AS REPRESENTATIVE OF A COUNTRY IN WHOSE CULTURAL

AND LEGAL TRADITION THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS
FIRMLY IMBEDDED. FURTHERMORE, I SAID, I HAD PERSONALLY
SUFFERED THE EFFECTS OF DENIAL OF SOME OF MY OWN
HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL AS REAPED BENEFITS OF THEIR
RECOGNITION.

G. AMBASSADOR'S RELATIONS WITH FONMIN:
PRESIDENT TERMINATED OUR EXCHANGE
WITH EXPRESSION OF BEST WISHES FOR EVERY SUCCESS IN MY
MISSION IN ALGERIA. HE ALSO URGED THAT I MAINTAIN
CLOSE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH HIS FONMIN. I REPLIED THAT
I FELT THE FONMIN AND I HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED SOUND
BASIS FOR SUCH CLOSE RELATIONSHIP IN OUR JULY 12 MEETING
(SEE ALGIERS 1751), TO WHICH FONMIN ASSENTED.
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3. AFTER OUR MEETING, REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIAN
PROTOCOL OFFICE ADVISED US THAT EXCHANGE WITH PRESIDENT
WAS LONGER THAN IS USUAL AT SUCH PRESENTATION CEREMONIES.
THROUGHOUT EXCHANGE, PRESIDENT WAS CORDIAL, REFLECTIVE,
RELAXED AND INTENT ON CONVEYING HIS MESSAGE. HE SHOWED
OCCASIONAL FLASHES OF HUMOR.

4. COMMENTS: AM REQUESTING DEPARTMENT TO ADVISE AND AUTHORIZE ME
TO MAKE INFORMAL RESPONSE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO ALGERIAN
PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO VISIT ALGERIA.

5. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE SET OF ALTERNATIVE DATES
FOR BOUMEDIENE VISIT TO US SOONEST.

6. FINALLY ANY RECENT DEPT GUIDELINES (OTHER THAN THE
PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND SECRETARY VANCE'S GEORGIA SPEECH)
ON HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.HAYNES

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